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Message Text

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15
ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 FEA-02 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 CIEP-03 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FPC-01 H-03

INR-11 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 FRB-03 PA-04

USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 /195 W
---------- 038326
R 270850Z SEP 74
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8374
INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
ZEN AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS TEHRAN 8175

KUWAIT PLEASE PASS DOHA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, IR
SUBJECT: IRANIAN PRESS COVERAGE OF SOBER VISIT

1. TEHRAN ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL OF 26 SEPTEMBER IN FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE BY RAJI SAMGHABADI HEADLINED "STATEMENT BY FORD NOT ULTIMATUM" QUOTED DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SOBER AS SAYING IN TEHRAN ON 25 SEPTEMBER THAT "FRANKNESS SHOULD NOT BE MIS-INTERPRETED AS AN ULTIMATUM OR THE SEEKING OF CON-FRONTATION". MR. SOBER FURTHER QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE ENERGY SQUEEZE WAS A SERIOUS PROBLEM NOT TO BE SWEPT UNDER THE TABLE AND ADDING THAT ASSUMPTION THAT THE
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UNITED STATES SOUGHT TO PIT THE INDUSTRIAL WORLD AGAINST

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THE OIL-RICH NATIONS WAS NONSENSE. ARTICLE QUOTED MR. SOBER AS SAYING THAT PRODUCERS ENTITLED TO REASONABLE INCOME AND THERE NO SUGGESTION THAT OIL PRICES BE ROLLED BACK TO LEVELS PREVAILING TWO OR THREE YEARS AGO. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE MR. SOBER CONCEDED THAT THERE HAD BEEN INSUFFICIENT FOLLOW-UP TO THE SHAH'S PROPOSAL FOR A PRODUCER-CONSUMER DIALOGUE TO PRODUCE COMMON SOLUTIONS TO WORLD MONETARY CRISIS.

2. ARTICLE STATED MR. SOBER PREFERRED NOT TO DWELL ON PAST INJUSTICES SUFFERED BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BUT RATHER STRESSED THAT THE UNITED STATES IS PRESENTLY COMMITTED TO EFFORT TO PREVENT FURTHER DETERIORATION OF WORLD ECONOMY. MR. SOBER, SAID THE ARTICLE, DENIED THAT THE U.S. WAS, IN ITS CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS, PREPARING ANY FORM OF CONFRONTATION OR ECONOMIC WARFARE. MR. SOBER QUOTED AS SAYING THAT COMPLICATED PRICING SCHEMES FOR CRUCIAL RAW MATERIALS WERE LESS EFFECTIVE MEANS TO INSURE AVAILABILITY THAN LOWERING OF BARRIERS TO TRADE WHICH MIGHT ALSO PROVIDE FOR SPECIAL CONCESSIONS TO PRODUCERS OF SCARCE COMMODITIES. FINALLY, MR. SOBER QUOTED AS SAYING HE DID NOT SUBSCRIBE TO EXTREMIST DOOMSDAY VIEWS OF RAW MATERIAL SHORTAGES.

3. IN FACING COLUMN IN SAME PUBLICATION IRANIAN INTERIOR MINISTER AND OPEC REPRESENTATIVE JAMSHID AMOUZEGAR QUOTED AS SAYING ON 25 SEPTEMBER THAT IRAN WAS AGAINST MANIPULATION OF OIL PRICES AND SUPPLIES AND CONTINUED IN ITS VIEW THAT OIL PRICES SHOULD EQUAL THE COST OF PRODUCING COMPETING SOURCES OF ENERGY. AMOUZEGAR EQUATED THE RECENT 3.5 PERCENT INCREASE IN OIL PRICES WITH THE RATE OF INFLATION IN THE PRICE OF INDUSTRIAL GOODS IN THE LAST QUARTER OF 1974. AMOUZEGAR ALSO NOTED THAT OIL COMPANY PROFITS REMAINED TOO HIGH AND CLAIMED THAT THE 3.5 PERCENT TAX AND ROYALTY HIKE WAS AIMED AT REDUCING COMPANY PROFITS FROM AN ESTIMATED 90 CENTS PER BARREL FOR PERSIAN GULF CRUDE TO ABOUT 57 CENTS PER BARREL.

4. COMMENT: NO REFERENCE WAS MADE BY AMOUZEGAR TO PRESIDENT'S OR SECRETARY'S STATEMENTS ON OIL PROBLEM.
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HELMS

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Draft Date: 27 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
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Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974096/aaaaaenw.tel
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TAGS: ENRG, OVIP, IR, (FORD, GERALD R), (SOBER, SIDNEY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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